

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 4 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 thru 13 and 15, and add claim 16, as follows:

1           1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting at least one function-  
2           extending module, which is detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module  
3           capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated between said at least  
4           one function-extending module and the base module, the apparatus comprising:

5           a detecting unit for detecting the installation of said at least one function-  
6           extending module in the module rack and for generating a detection signal;

7           a switching unit for connecting the base module to said at least one function-  
8           extending module; and

9           a control unit for controlling the switching unit so that said at least one function-  
10          extending module is connected to the base module in a daisy-chain fashion according to  
11          the detection signal from the detecting unit;

12          wherein the base module has a port and each function-extending module has first  
13          and second ports;

14          wherein the switching unit comprises a first switching part for selectively  
15          connecting the port of the base module to the first port of one function-extending module,  
16          and a second switching part for selectively connecting the second port of said one  
17          function-extending module to the first port of any other function-extending module;

18        wherein the second switching part comprises switching n devices, each switching  
19        device corresponding to a given function-extending module, said each switching device  
20        comprising a common port and n-1 selection ports, one selection port for each of n-1  
21        other switching devices; and

22        wherein the common port of said each switching device is connected to the second  
23        port of said given function-extending module, and said n-1 selection ports of said each  
24        switching device are connected to the first port of said n-1 other switching devices,  
25        respectively.

1           2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the port of the base  
2        module comprises an IEEE 1394 port and said first and second ports of said at least one  
3        each function-extending module comprises first and second are IEEE 1394 ports; and

4           ~~wherein the switching unit comprises:~~

5           ~~a first switching part for selectively connecting the IEEE 1394 port included in the~~  
6        ~~base module to one of the first IEEE 1394 ports of said at least one function-extending~~  
7        ~~module; and~~

8           ~~a second switching part for selectively connecting one of the second IEEE 1394~~  
9        ~~ports of said at least one function-extending module to one of the IEEE 1394 ports of any~~  
10       ~~other said at least one function-extending module.~~

1           3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the detecting

unit sends the detection signal to the control unit, the detection signal indicating whether a corresponding function-extending module is inserted into the module rack, said control unit generating a control signal; and

wherein the first switching part selectively connects [[a]] the port ~~provided in~~ of the base module to ~~one of the first IEEE 1394 ports~~ port of said ~~at least one~~ function-extending module in response to [[a]] the control signal generated by the control unit.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[4]] 1, wherein [[the]] said each switching device connects one of the selection ports to [[the]] its common port in response to another control signal generated by the control unit.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one function-extending module comprises a plurality of function-extending modules, and wherein said switching unit establishes interconnections between respective function-extending modules.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting ~~at least one~~ a plurality of function-extending ~~module~~ modules, which [[is]] are detachably inserted into [[the]] a module rack, to a base module capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be

communicated, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a switching unit having a first port connected to the base module, a plurality of common ports, one for each function-extending module, and a plurality of additional ports;

(b) connecting each common port of the switching unit to a first port of a respective one of said function-extending modules;

(c) connecting each additional port of the switching unit to a second port of a corresponding one of said function-extending modules;

[[a)] (d) detecting whether said ~~at least one~~ function-extending ~~module is~~ modules are inserted into the module rack; and

[[b)] (e) connecting the detected said ~~at least one~~ function-extending ~~module in a daisy-chain fashion with regard~~ modules to the base module.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [[b)] (e) comprises:

[[b1)] (e1) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

[[b12)] (e12) connecting the base module to said at least one function-extending module when the previously installed function-extending module is not present.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [[b)] (e)

comprises:

[[b21]] (e21) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

[[b22]] (e22) connecting the previously installed function-extending module to a newly installed function-extending module and detachably connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base module when only one previously installed function-extending module is present.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [(b)] (e) comprises:

[[b31]] (e31) checking for presence of previously installed function-extending modules; and

[[b32]] (e32) connecting a newly installed function-extending module to a function-extending module which constitutes a last node of a daisy chain of the previously installed function-extending modules when a number of the previously installed function-extending modules is at least two, and connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base module.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step [(b)] (e) further comprises connecting said detected at least one function-extending module to an installed function-extending module in the daisy-chain fashion.

1           12. (Currently Amended) A recording medium having program codes that connect  
2 a function-extending module, which is detachably inserted into the module rack, to a base  
3 module capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated, the medium  
4 comprising:

5           a first program code for detecting whether the function-extending module is  
6 inserted into the module rack; and

7           a second program code for connecting the function-extending module to a  
8 previously installed function-extending module ~~in a daisy-chain fashion with regard to~~  
9 ~~the base module~~ when the function-extending module is detected as being inserted into  
10 the module rack;

11           wherein the second program code comprises:

12           a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed  
13 function-extending module; and

14           a second program code portion for connecting the previously installed function-  
15 extending module to a newly installed function-extending module when there is only one  
16 previously installed function-extending module, and connecting the newly installed  
17 function-extending module to the base module

1           13. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 12, wherein the second  
2 program code further comprises:

3       ~~a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed~~  
4       ~~function-extending module; and~~

5       a ~~second~~ third program code portion for connecting the base module to a newly  
6       installed function-extending module when the previously installed function-extending  
7       module is not present.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

1       15. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 12, wherein the second  
2       program code further comprises:

3       ~~a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed~~  
4       ~~function-extending module; and~~

5       a ~~second~~ third program code portion for connecting a newly installed function-  
6       extending module to a function-extending module that constitutes a last node of a daisy  
7       chain of the previously installed function-extending module when a number of previously  
8       installed function extending modules is two, and for detachably connecting the newly  
9       installed function-extending module to the base module.

1       16. (New) A method for connecting a plurality of function-extending modules,  
2       which are detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module capable of  
3       reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated, the method comprising the steps

4 of:

5 (a) detecting whether said function-extending modules are inserted into the  
6 module rack; and

7 (b) connecting the detected said function-extending modules to the base module;

8 wherein step (b) comprises:

9 (b21) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module;

10 and

11 (b22) connecting the previously installed function-extending module to a newly  
12 installed function-extending module and connecting the newly installed function-  
13 extending module to the base module when only one previously installed function-  
14 extending module is present.